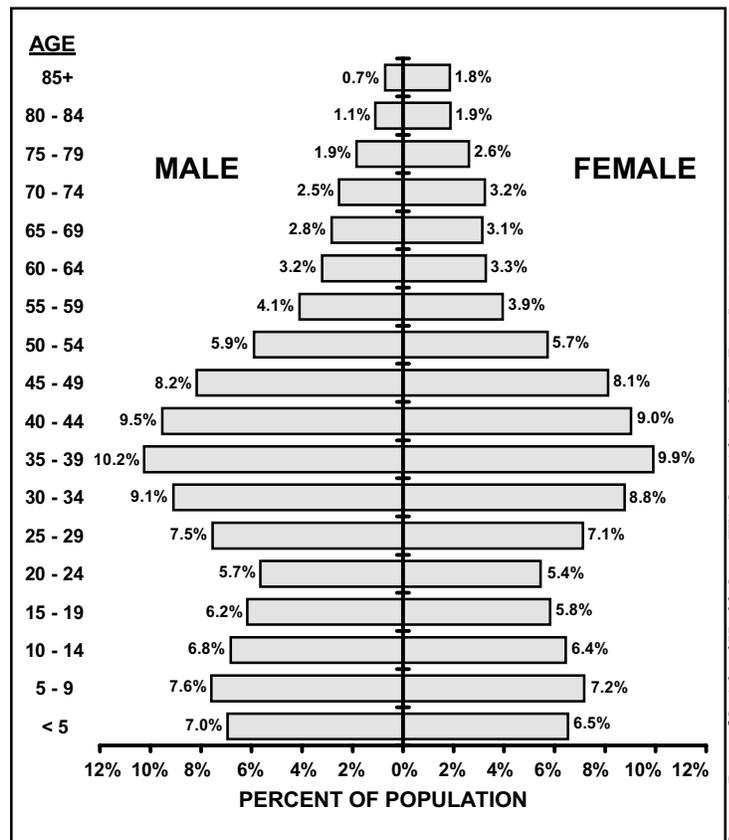


# CHAPTER 2: THE KING COUNTY POPULATION

## TOTAL POPULATION

- ◆ The total King County population in 1996 was 1,628,801, including 534,567 (33%) in Seattle.
- ◆ Elderly age 65 and over accounted for 11 percent of the total population.
- ◆ Children under age 15 accounted for 21 percent of the total population.

**Figure 2-1:  
Population Distribution in King County  
By Age and Gender, 1996**



## POPULATION GROWTH

- ◆ Between 1980 and 1996, the population grew 28.6 percent in King County and 8.5 percent in Seattle.
- ◆ The number of persons age 25 to 44 surged 42.3 percent and the elderly age 65 and older rose 36.9 percent. The number of youth age 15 to 24 declined 19.8 percent during the same period.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 1996, the Asian population in King County tripled with a 203 percent increase. For the other racial/ethnic groups, the increase was 120 percent for Hispanics, 76 percent for Native Americans, 65 percent for African Americans, and 19 percent for whites.
- ◆ It is projected that the total King County population will increase to 1,711,907 in year 2000, 1,840,172 in year 2010, and 2,030,674 in year 2020.

**Table 2-1:  
Population in King County, 1996**

	Total Population	Percent	Growth Percent *
<b>King County</b>	1,628,801	100.0%	28.6%
<b>Seattle</b>	534,567	32.8%	8.5%
<b>KC Outside Seattle</b>	1,094,234	67.2%	41.4%
<b>Age:</b>			
0-14	337,949	20.7%	36.1%
15-24	188,038	11.5%	-19.8%
25-44	580,148	35.6%	42.3%
45-64	345,577	21.2%	39.8%
65+	177,089	10.9%	36.9%
<b>Elderly Age 85+</b>	20,890	1.3%	54.8%
<b>Race:</b>			
White	1,338,938	82.2%	19.3%
African American	91,511	5.6%	64.5%
Native American	21,084	1.3%	75.5%
Asian	177,271	10.9%	202.5%
<b>Hispanic Ethnicity</b>	58,570	3.6%	120.3%

Source: Dept. of Social and Health Services, WA State Adjusted Population Estimates, June 30, 1997.

\* Percent change between 1980 and 1996.

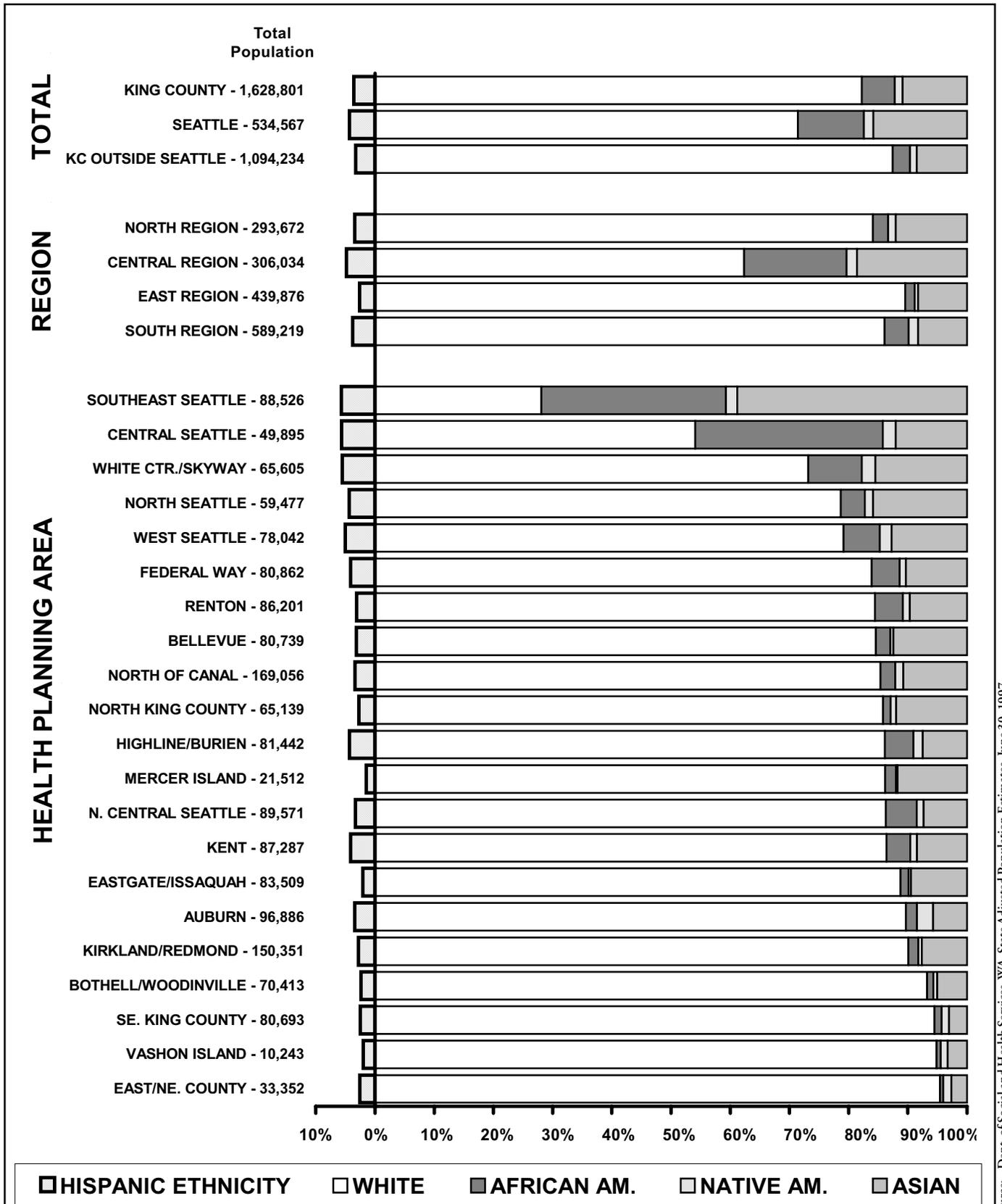
## RACE/ETHNICITY

- ◆ In 1996, the King County population was 82.2 percent white, 10.9 percent Asian, 5.6 percent African American, and 1.3 percent Native American. Persons of Hispanic ethnicity, who could be of any race, accounted for 3.6 percent of the total population (Table 2-1).
- ◆ In Seattle, the racial composition was 71.5 percent

white, 15.8 percent Asian, 11.1 percent African American, and 1.6 percent Native American. Hispanics accounted for 4.3 percent of the Seattle population.

- ◆ Of the Health Planning Areas in King County, Southeast Seattle and Central Seattle had the largest percentages of minority population (Figure 2-2).

**Figure 2-2:**  
**Percent of Population by Race/Ethnicity**  
**By Region and Health Planning Area, King County, 1996**



Source: Dept. of Social and Health Services, WA State-Adjusted Population Estimates, June 30, 1997.

## SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

- ◆ According to the 1990 Census, 8 percent of all King County residents and 12 percent of Seattle residents lived below the Federal poverty level (for a family of four this was \$12,700 in 1990 and \$15,600 in 1996).
- ◆ The poverty rate was 6 percent among whites, 15 percent among Hispanics, 15 percent among Asians, 22 percent among African Americans, and 26 percent among Native Americans.
- ◆ Central and Southeast Seattle had the highest poverty rates (Figure 2-3).
- ◆ Among King County adult residents age 25 and older in 1990, 11.8 percent did not have a high school diploma. The rate was 13.6 percent in Seattle. Among the Health Planning Areas, the rate ranged from 27.0 percent for Southeast Seattle to 3.2 percent for Mercer Island.
- ◆ In 1990, among family households with children under age 18 in King County, 22.3 percent were single parent family households. The percentage of single parent households in Seattle was 29.4 percent.
- ◆ Among the health planning areas, Central Seattle and Southeast Seattle had the highest rate of single parent households at 54.3 percent and 39.1 percent respectively.
- ◆ Migration is a major component in population change. In 1990, among persons age 5 and older, 55.3 percent had not lived in the same house, 23.7 percent had not lived in King County, 16.7 percent had not lived in Washington State, and 2.6 percent had not lived in the United States for five or more years.

**Figure 2-3:**  
**Percent of Population Living Below Poverty**  
**By Region and Health Planning Area, King County, 1990**

